

Cooku¹ Patrol² Log For Summer Camp 1961 at Arduaine, Loch Melfort

Editorial comments:

1. It should read the 'Cuckoo Patrol Log'

2. The patrol consisted of PL Albert Runcie (Oz), Second John Moore (Moori), Bobby McCallum, R. McKelvie (Rhiddian) and Billy Phillips (Wiffil).

Tuesday 1st August 1961

At 8 to 8:30 AM, we all assembled at the hall and loaded the gear onto the minibus¹ and set off.

When we arrived at the campsite², we unloaded and pitched camp. Halfway through cooking the tea, it started to rain, but it went off before long. After tea, we got arranged inside the tents and just before pit time it started³. A campfire of sorts was arranged, but had to be abandoned because of the water refusing to boil. We went to bed with an empty stomach.

Editorial comments for 1st August 1961

1. This may have been the first time that the Troop hired a minibus for camp. The minibus was actually a dormobile. The registration of the minibus started with 'VS' indicating that the vehicle was registered in Renfrewshire. The coach hire was £25, insurance was £11, and petrol was £5-6-9, making a total of £41-6-9. This would be the equivalent in value of £1,176 today (2023).

2. The campsite was about a mile due west of Kames Farm, and was situated within a 'notch' between a small hill and the slopes of Beinn Chaorach (See also Figure 10). The Grid reference was 812113. The Fox camped within the notch itself. The Scouters camped downhill from the notch on the east side, whereas the Hippo and Cuckoo patrols camped downhill on the west side.

3. Presumably, the rain started again.

Wednesday 2nd August 1961

Up at 7 AM to make breakfast¹ which consisted of sausages (slice), eggs, porridge, bread, butter, etc, etc.

At 10 AM (precise), three whistles² were blown and the Troop assembled round (or should I say half round) the flagpole. After flagbreak, Bob³ announced an announcement!!!??? which was the programme for today. Each patrol had to (do) something out of the following list :-

erect Jasper⁴

erect a flagpole⁵

and erect the signposts and do some portage⁶

We got landed with the flagpole. Bob,³ Oz⁷ and Moori*⁸ all went in the bus to find the flagpole and came back with quite a good one. Dinner consisted of mince, carrots and spuds, rhubarb and custard after which Al Cram⁹, Oz, Moori and Hoji¹⁰ erected the flagpole¹¹. Free time was well used by either going to Arduaine or going swimming.¹²

Tea was a sort of French toast¹³ but was delicious. After tea, Bob organized an expedition to the top of a hill¹⁴ behind our kitchen and that's where it started. When we got to the top and nursed our sores, Bob took a photograph of the troop expedition!! (Figure 1).¹⁵

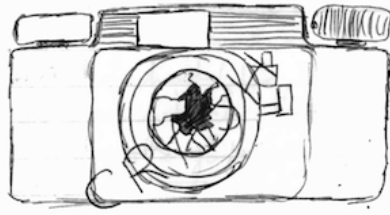


Figure 1 Bob's photograph of the Troop¹⁶

From the top of the hill, which incidentally has a trig point, we could see a small lochain¹⁷ to which we made our way. After polluting the water with our feet, we returned to dumpling¹⁸, co-co¹⁹ (or sumpin²⁰) and a singsong before turning into our pits²¹.

Signed

I thought Cooku was spelt Cuckoo. Howse about better spelling ? KooKoo!
Please write legibly and neatly! Who is in the patrol? More illustrations please!

R.K. Miller (Thurs 3rd/8/61)

Required: another author (one for each day) J.H. Nisbet (3/8/61)²²

Editorial comments for 2nd August 1961

- 1. Each patrol was self sufficient in having its own patrol tent and kitchen shelter. All meals were cooked by the patrols themselves over wood fires. Each patrol was also expected to build camp gadgets for their kitchen shelter and patrol site.*
- 2. All the patrols were summoned by three whistles to the main flagpole and then flagbreak would be carried out by the PL of the duty patrol that day.*
- 3. Scout Master Bob Miller.*
- 4. 'Jasper' could refer to the toilet pi (big bit), latrines or the toilet tent. The term originated from a previous camp at Blairmore, where the bog pit was first used by a dog called Jasper. It's not clear whether the Troop at the time used pit latrines or toilet tents. Either way, pits had to be dug for human waste. No doubt the vegetation in the area must have been remarkably lush for years afterwards.*
- 5. This involved finding a substantial tree to act as the main flagpole for camp. It's not known whether a suitable tree was chopped down for the purpose or not. The flagpole at Arduaine was estimated to be 25' high as indicated in the Fox Patrol Log*
- 6. The Fox patrol obtained these tasks and were required to carry a hamper up to the campsite. The signposts were put up to direct visitors/parents to the campsite*
- 7. Oz was the nickname of Albert Runcie, who was PL of the Cuckoo Patrol in camp*
- 8. John Moore (Moori) was Second of the Cuckoo Patrol led by Albert Runcie (Oz).*
- 9. Alastair Cram, who was PL of a Hippopotamus Patrol.*
- 10. Hoji was the nickname for Michael Hodge of the Cuckoo Patrol.*
- 11. Erecting a 25 foot flagpole was not without its risks and it was important that the flagpole was held in position until all the guylines were firmly secured. Getting the flagpole to look vertical from all viewpoints was also a bit of a challenge that needed adjustments to the three guylines used. At this camp it was raised on top of the hillock overlooking the campsite.*
- 12. The swimming would have been in Loch Melfort. Two possible locations might have been used, one of them being in Kames Bay.*
- 13. French toast involved dipping a piece of bread in egg, then frying it.*
- 14. Beinn Chaorach (841'), Grid Reference 811102.*
- 15. It is not known whether this photograph has survived the years.*
- 16 The camera is shown as shattering at the sight of the Scouts.*
- 17. Just to the east of the hill top. Grid reference 814101*
- 18. The dumpling was a Bob Miller 'tradition' that was cooked in camp*
- 19. Co-co = cocoa*
- 20. sumpin = something*
- 21. Pit was the term used at the time for bed or sleeping bag.*

22. Various comments made by Scouters Bob Miller and John Nisbet on reading the log book.

Thursday 3rd August

The blokes in the patrol are Oz,¹ Moori,² Bobby³ and Rhiddian^{4,5} We upped ourselves at 7.15 AM and make breakfast consisting of:

Bacon and eggs

Cornflakes

Bread, butter etc

Flag up was at ten (or so) am. After inspection⁶, we had a Scout's Own⁷ and a game of shove ha-penny⁸ in which Downs⁹ won 4-3. Dinner was:

Fried steak and onions, tatties.

Jelly and stewed apricots

Dixies were done and Bob¹⁰ and the Scouts (except Seconds, P.L.'s and T.L.¹¹ and Niz the Elder¹² went in the minibus¹³. The others trudged painfully on in pouring rain to Kilmelford¹⁴. The rain has started in the morning. We had (permission granted) a communal tea which didn't go without Nizy's¹⁵ Primus¹⁶ (a godsend from Bob¹⁷) (Figure 2). Tea consisted of macaroni and cheese sauce.

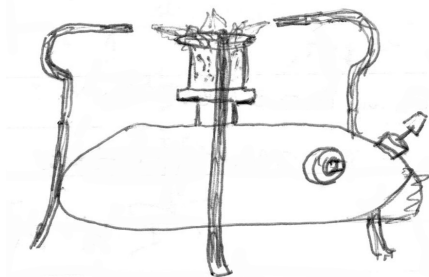


Figure 2 The primus used to make tea

After tea, we had a game of cards and went to pit¹⁸. We saw a Bertie Cuthbert¹⁹ on the tent (Figures 3 and 4), which we took down. Bob¹⁰ came round with cocoa and biscuits which we ate and drank. We then popped off to sleeeep.

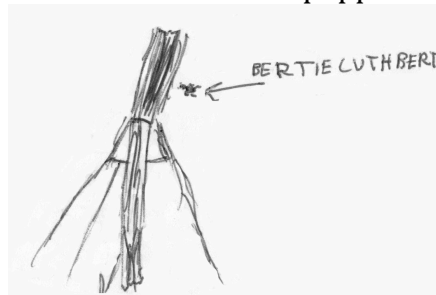


Figure 3 Bertie Cuthbertson (beetle near the ridge pole of the tent – the thick lines probably represent the tent poles at the entrance and the ridge of the tents)

Signed Rhiddian⁴

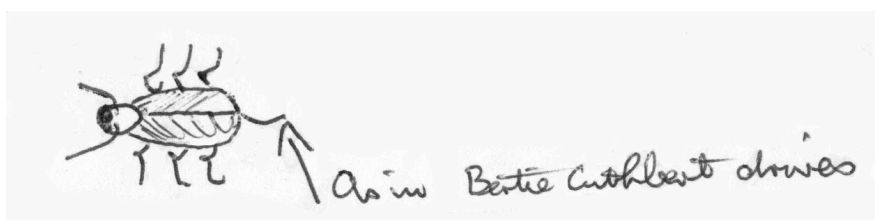


Figure 4 Sketch of a beetle²⁰

More illustrations please! R.K. Miller (4/8/61)²¹

Editorial comments for 3rd August 1961

1. Oz was the nickname of Albert Runcie, who was PL of the Cuckoo Patrol in camp
2. John Moore (Moori) was Second of the Cuckoo Patrol led by Albert Runcie (Oz).
3. Bobby McCallum
4. Rhiddian McKelvie
5. Billy Phillips (Wiffil) joined the patrol on 4th August.
6. Inspection was held each morning after flagbreak, by which time the patrols should have finished breakfast and tidied up. The patrol tent and contents were inspected for tidiness, while the kitchen shelter was inspected to ensure that dishes and cooking utensils have been properly washed up. Points were also awarded for any gadgets that had been constructed. It is possible that the Scouts themselves were inspected to ensure that they had washed (especially hands).
7. A Scouts Own was a religious service that was organised and run by the Scouts and Scouters themselves. The Summer Camp of 1961 was perhaps unique in having a Scouts Own every morning with a different Scout Law covered at each one; there were 10 Scout Laws at the time. Each Scouts Own was led by a PL or a Scouter.
8. This was an indication that the weather that morning was poor as the game would have been held under shelter. In fact the weather was poor all day.
9. Presumably the teams were defined by the coins being as heads down or heads up.
10. Scout Master Bob Miller
11. The Troop Leader (T.L.) was Alastair Cram
12. ASM John Nisbet was called Big Nizzy to distinguish him from his younger brother, Michael, who was also called Niz.
13. The weather was so poor that it was decided to take the younger Scouts on a drive into Arduaine and Kilmelford, instead of being stuck in their tents all day.
14. Some pioneering was done beforehand, then the Scouts completed a 3-mile round trip visiting a sawmill on the road leading to Kilmelford. They did not actually hike to Kilmelford.
15. Not clear whether this meant Michael or John Nisbet
16. The primus stove was a pressure stove that used paraffin as fuel. It was highly effective as long as it was shielded from the wind. It was crucial that the burner head was pre heated with burning methylated spirits to ensure that the paraffin liquid was turned to gas as it passed through the burner head. If not, liquid paraffin would be ejected once the primus was pressurized to produce a flame throwing effect. Primuses were to become the standard stove used on hikes during the late 1960s and 1970s before the Trangia meths stoves became available. Scouts were forbidden to light primus stoves anywhere near tents for obvious reasons.
17. Presumably the primus stove used was Bob's personal primus.
18. The fact that the Scouts went to their pits (sleeping bags) early is another indication of poor weather
19. A 'Bertie Cuthbert' was the term used for a beetle. The derivation of this is not known.
20. Bob Miller added this sketch of a beetle when he read the log book entry. The reference to 'Bertie Cuthbert drives' related to 'Beetle Drives', which were held at parties or fund raising events. Four players sat at a table and each took a turn at throwing a dice. The number thrown allowed the player to draw part of a beetle and the first player to complete the beetle shouted 'Beetle' to end the game. A number 2 had to be thrown first in order to draw the body, then the number 1 had to be drawn to draw the head. After that, the parts could be added in whatever order the numbers came up. A number 3 allowed a feeler to be drawn. A number 4 allowed an eye to be drawn. A number 5 allowed a wing to be drawn. A number 6 allowed a leg to be drawn. At the end of the game, each player counted up the marks based on what parts of the beetle had been drawn, with the maximum score being 63. A dozen games were generally played and the player with the highest accumulated score won overall.
21. Feedback provided by Bob Miller

Friday 4th August 1961

At six a.m., Oz¹ and Moorie² got up to erect a new kitchen³ as the old one was very muddy. At 7.30, Bobby⁴ got up and Rhiddian⁵ wrote the log. At 8 am⁶, we had breakfast which consisted of a boiled egg and porridge, after which we washed dishes etc etc. At ten a.m., we had flagbreak and Bob⁷ made the announcements. After flagbreak, we rushed down the hill for inspection⁸ in which we got nine marks for the tent and five for the kitchen.⁹ We then played baseball for a quarter of an hour (Figure 5).

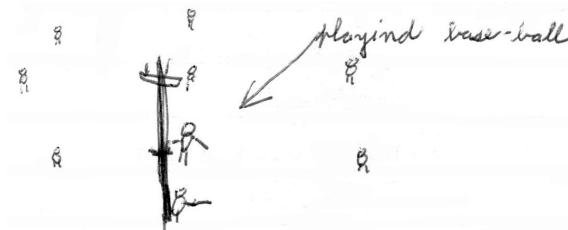


Figure 5 Playing baseball.¹⁰

After, we made dinner which consisted of links.¹¹ We had planned to go to Oban at 2 PM but when we got stores¹², Bob⁷ met another S.M.¹³ who told him a C.C.¹⁴ was coming. So we had to tidy our kitchen. At 2.20 pm, we set off for Oban (Figure 6).

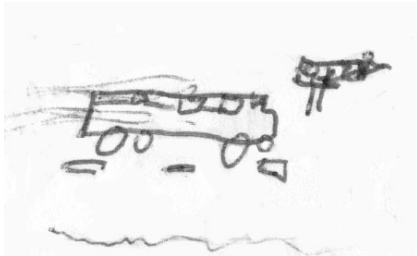


Figure 6
The minibus heading for Oban.

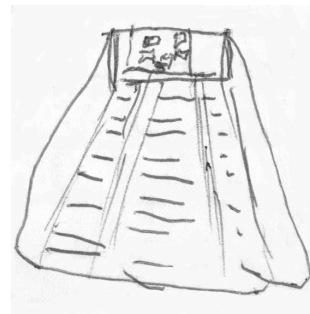


Figure 7
The interior of the cinema

When we reached Oban, we were allowed to wander round Oban. At 5pm, we had tea, which consisted of corn beef sandwiches and milk. We then went to the pictures¹⁵ (Figure 7).

After the pictures, we had chips and then set off home. We reached Loch Melfort and then hiked the rest of the way¹⁶.

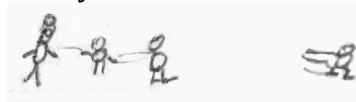


Figure 8 Hiking to camp.

When we reached camp, Wiffil¹⁷ was there and after co-co¹⁸ we went (to) our pit¹⁹.

Signed Bobby.⁴

1. Too much like a troop log – events concerning the patrol should be recorded in here.

2. Spelling not up to it and illustrations a bit inadequate – more varied colours please.

J.H. Nisbet (5/8/61)²⁰

Editorial comments for 4th August 1961

1. *Oz was the nickname of Albert Runcie, who was PL of the Cuckoo Patrol in camp*
2. *John Moore was Second of the Cuckoo Patrol led by Albert Runcie (Oz).*
3. *It's not clear whether this refers to the tarpaulin covering the kitchen site, or the kitchen site itself.*
4. *Bobby McCallum*
5. *Rhiddian McKelvie*
6. *The time was not defined*
7. *Scout Master Bob Miller*
8. *See note 6 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding inspection. Note also that the flagpole was placed on top of the hillock next to the notch.*
9. *It's not defined what the marks were out of.*
10. *Figure 5 suggests that a telephone or electricity post was situated at the spot where the game was played. Photos taken of the campsite during the recce (see the website page on the camp) show a wooden post in a small saddle between two hills. This is where the Fox Patrol camped. The game would have been played further e and this might be where the game was played.*
11. *Presumably sausages.*
12. *The stores were picked up in Arduaine. The receipts from the camp reveal that most of the groceries for the camp were purchased from Arduaine Stores and the invoices were prepared by R.C. Campbell. This may have been the 'Uncle Dick's' referred to in the Troop log. Possibly, the store owner was called Richard.*
13. *S.M. stands for Scout Master. However, the Troop Log stated that it was the Akela from a Scout Troop camping close by. It's not possible to state which account was right*
14. *C.C stands for County Commissioner. Normally, the District Commissioner of the local area would visit the troops camping in his patch. As a County Commissioner is much higher up the 'ladder', the minibus did a U-turn back to camp in order to make sure that everything was shipshape, just in case the C.C might also visit the 70th site. However, it's not reported whether the CC actually visited the 70th site or not.*
15. *Troop Log states that the film was 'A League of Gentlemen' starring Jack Hawkins. This was a comedy released in 1960 involving ex-servicemen planning to rob a bank*
16. *The Scouters were visiting the minister in Kilmelford who would be taking the church service on the Sunday. As a result, the Scouts had to walk from Kilmelford back to the campsite, which would have taken about an hour.*
17. *Billy Phillips (Wiffil) arrived at the campsite on the Friday having been driven there by his parents. Presumably he was on a family holiday up until that point.*
18. *'Co-co' means cocoa*
19. *Pit was the term used at the time for bed or sleeping bag.*
20. *Feedback comments provided by A.S.M. John Nisbet.*

COOKOO PATROL LOG

Saturday 5th August

We arose at 7.15 from pit¹ and started to cook breakfast (eggs, cornflakes, BP²). After this we got ready for inspection³ (picking up fish and wood chips⁴). Then came the dreaded 3 whistles⁵ and I!!!⁶ had to run! to the flag pole. I was last (of course)⁷ and so got a point off our patrol. Then after flagbreak we ran down to our tent for inspection. We, the Cookoo⁸, got 5 pts for kitchen, 8 for tent and were told to have gadgets⁹ for tomorrow so after this we decided to make an altar fire, a table, a plate rack, a wood pile and others (NB at the building of altar fire, guess who was sacrificed). After inspection, we had Scouts Own¹⁰ (4th Scout Law¹¹). A game of baseball, which Raymond Berry's team won 2 v 1½ (large nizzly¹² got the ½), followed. Then we had to cook dinner on the old fire then tea came after an afternoon swim in the burn from the black spout (*Figure 9*).¹³

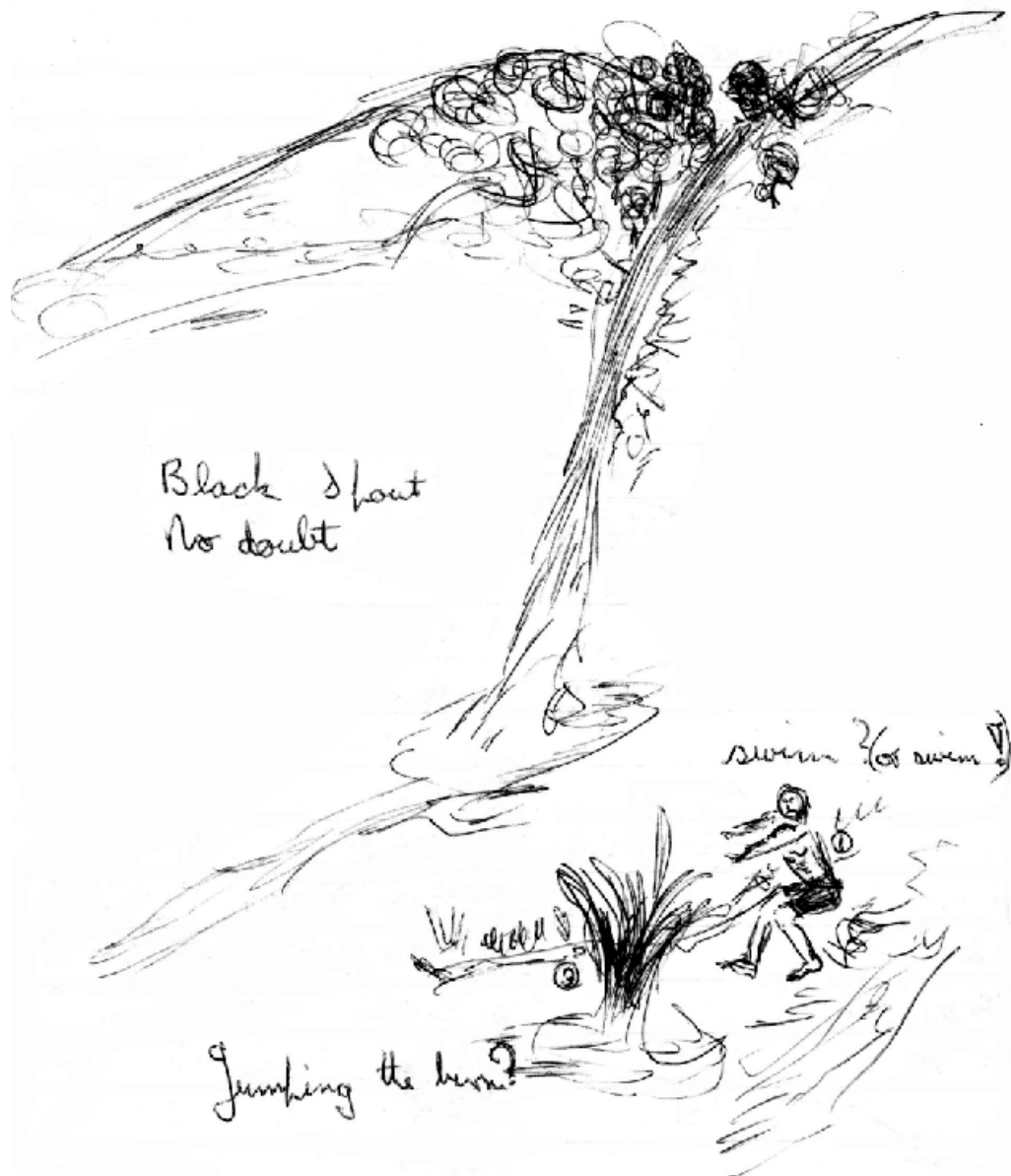


Figure 9 Black Spout¹⁴

After tea, we had tons of time to get a good wood pile (down with vice)¹⁵ then we went for a short walk (Figure 10).

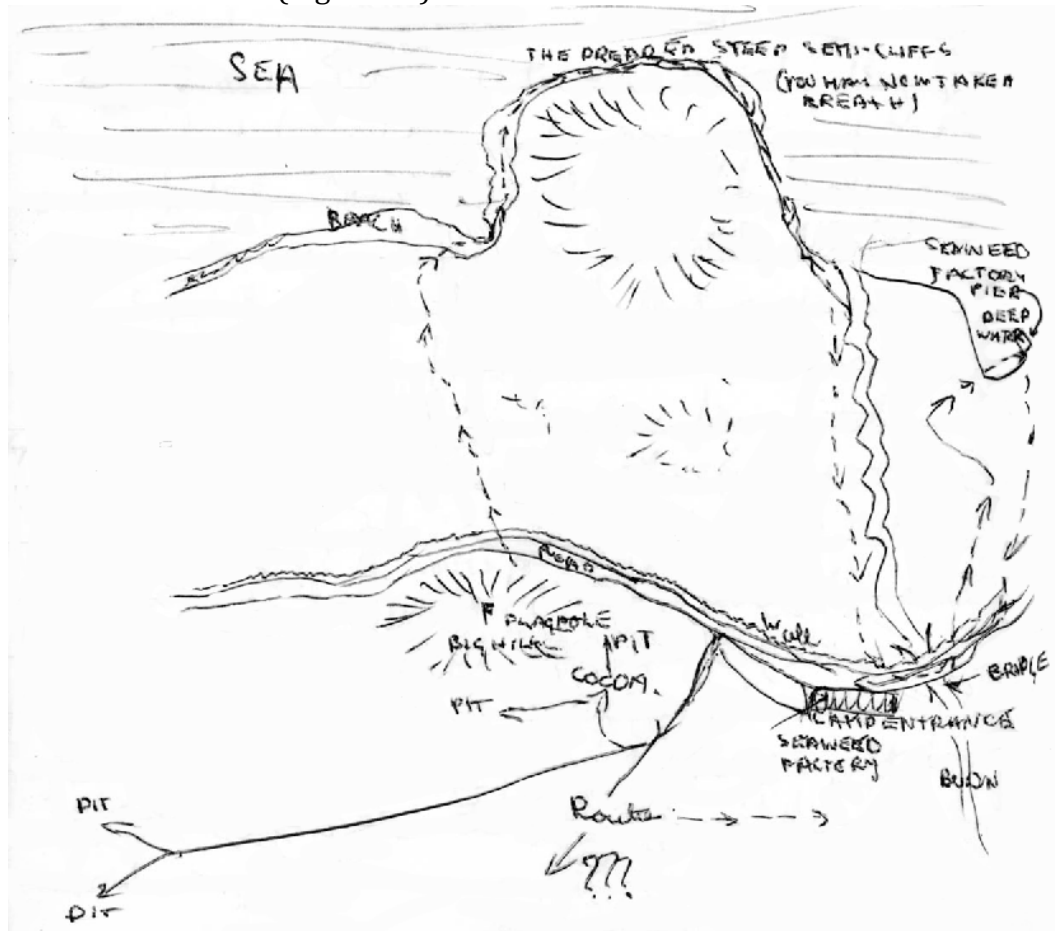


Figure 10 Route of walk

Then we had cocoa and went to pit¹.

Signed Wiffil⁶

Interest

British Birds No. 1

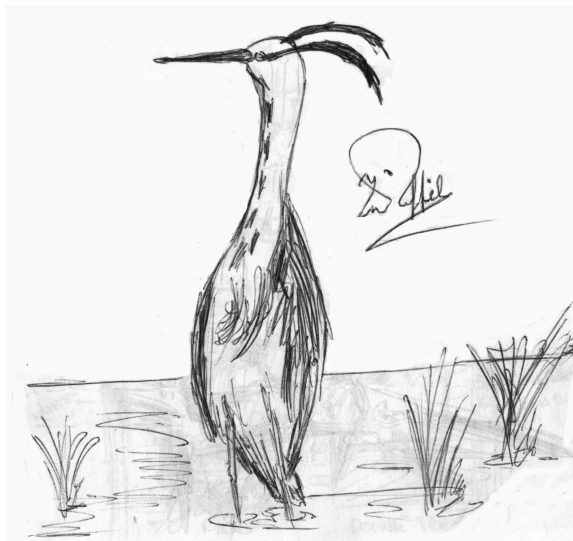


Figure 11 Heron¹⁶

British Birds No. 2



Figure 12 Tawny Owl¹⁶

P.G. J.H.N¹⁷

Editorial comments for the 5th August 1961

1. *Pit was the term used at the time for bed or sleeping bag.*
2. *Black pudding*
3. *See note 6 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding inspection*
4. *Presumably playing on the phrase 'fish and chips'. Unlikely that fish was lying about. The wood chips refer to the wood splinters resulting from chopping up wood. These had to be cleared away prior to an inspection*
5. *See note 2 for the 2nd August 1961 regarding three whistles.*
6. *Billy Phillips (Wiffil).*
7. *Billy was heavily built in the early 1960s.*
8. *Cuckoo.*
9. *The patrols were told to make gadgets for their patrol site by Sunday. Typical gadgets were dish racks, mug trees, cutlery holders, patrol flagpoles, boot scrapers, wet pit, larder, dresser, basin rack, cloths line etc etc. Patrols gained marks for the quantity and quality of their gadgets, which had to be made out of natural materials. Possibly, bonus marks were provided on this occasion if original or novel gadgets were made.*
10. *See note 7 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding Scouts Owns.*
11. *The 4th Scout Law was 'A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what country, class or creed the other may belong.' As one might imagine, this was one of the more difficult Scout Laws to memorise for the Tenderfoot Badge*
12. *ASM John Nisbet was called Big Nizzy or large nizzly to distinguish him from his younger brother, Michael, who was also called Niz.*
13. *The black spout was supposedly a waterfall in a burn leading to the shore. At the foot of this waterfall, the burn was suitable for swimming. The Scouts probably named the waterfall as 'The Black Spout' because they had visited a Black Spout waterfall in Pitlochry during Easter camp. It is likely that all waterfalls were labelled Black Spout thereafter. However to date, no such waterfall has been located in the vicinity of the campsite.*
14. *The sketch looks like it is a 'before and after' representation of someone 1) trying to jump the burn, then 2) landing in it the burn.*
15. *This appears to have been an additional note added by the author. The meaning/significance of it is unclear, unless it related to an error that was scored out where 'pile' was originally entered as 'pill'.*
16. *Billy Phillips was an enthusiast on natural history and was also good at drawing sketches. He drew many impressive sketches during his time as scribe of the Troop Log.*
17. *Feedback comments provided by A.S.M. John Nisbet. The P.G. probably stands for Pretty Good.*

Cookoo Patrol Log

Sunday 6th August

We arose at 7.15 and proceeded to make breakfast in the usual manner.

Breakfast today was cornflakes, slice and egg. Then we prepared for the parade¹ and inspection².

At inspection, we were very bad. After "Jam Chits"³, we left for Kilmelford at 1ml in 10 mins i.e. 6 mls per hr.⁴ We arrived and marched to church with the Scouts from Doune (Perthshire).⁵

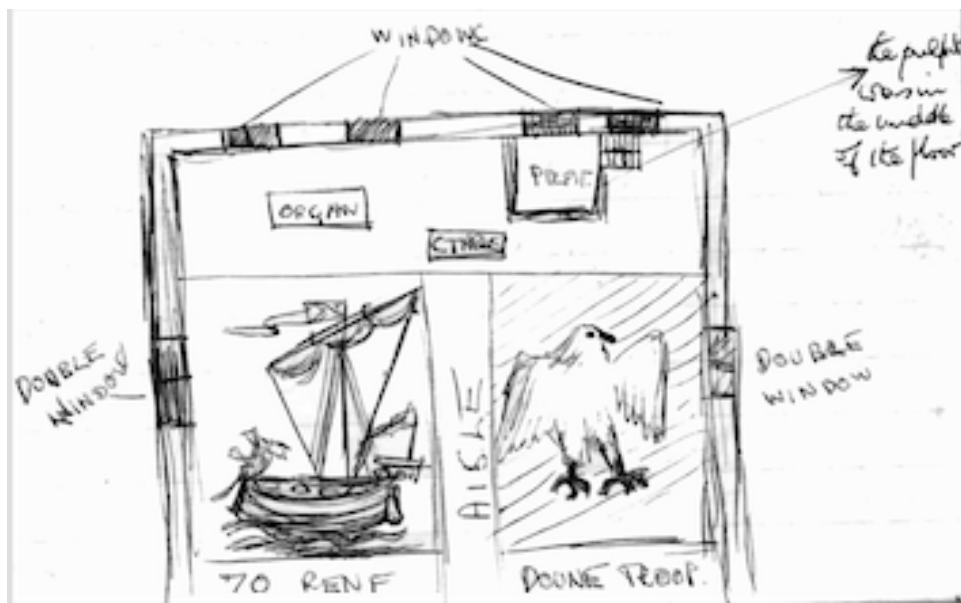


Figure 13 The plan of the church⁶

When we came home via mini-bus, we had dinner part 2 and spent the afternoon doing nothing in particular.⁷ Our patrol made a colossal wood pile and had good fun afterwards by eating tea (Stew etc.etc.) After tea came a short walk to our campfire to be at the English Troop's camp.⁸ It was a Mammoth programme and I'm Shure!!! Everyone in the troop learnt some new songs including:-



Verse 1

I went to the animal fair
The Birds and the Beasts were there
The Great Baboon,
By the light of the moon
Was combing his auburn hair.

Verse 2

The monkey fell out of his bunk
And slid down the Elephant's trunk
The Elephant sneezed and fell on his knees
And that was the end of the monkey-unkey-unkey-unkey-
unkey unkey-unkey-unkey and others.

Signed Wiffil

Figure 14 New songs.

Interest
British Birds No. 3

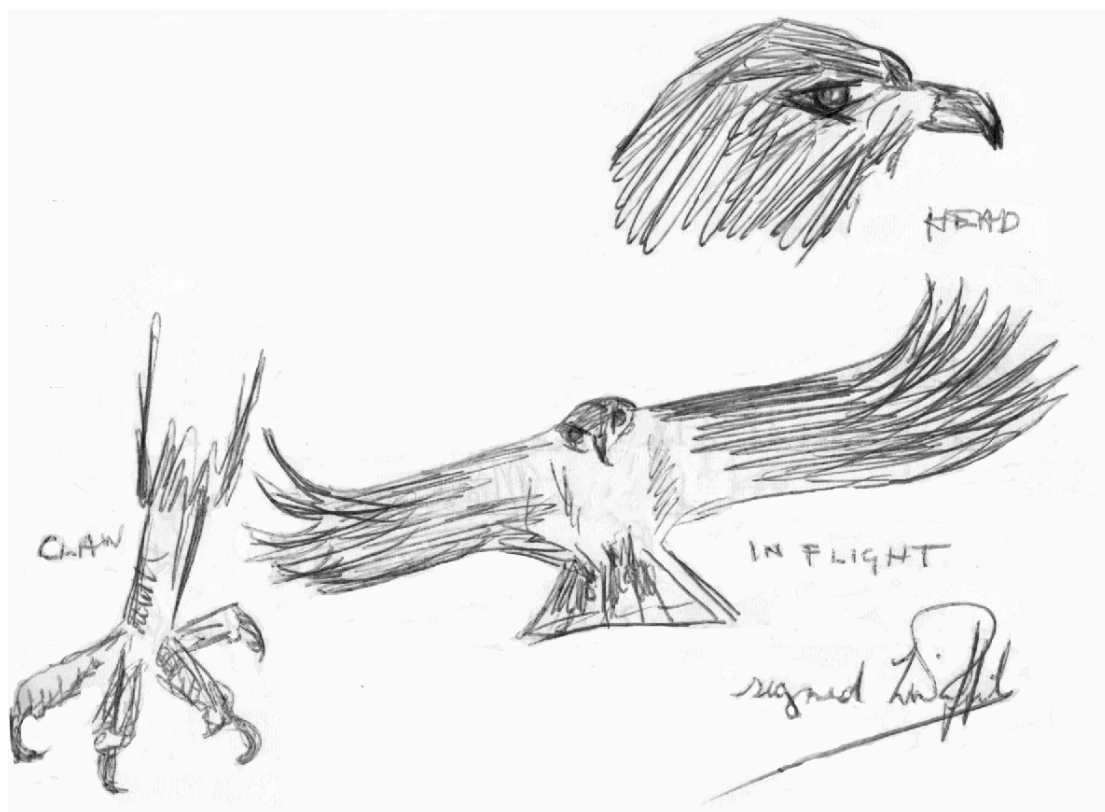


Figure 15 Golden Eagle⁹

Very good.
Keep up the sketches etc.
I. McF¹⁰

Editorial comments for the 6th August 1961

1. It was traditional for the 70th to parade to and from church on the Sunday morning with colours flying.
2. See note 6 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding inspection
3. Jam sandwiches
4. They walked very fast. It was about 4 miles to Kilmelford.
5. A sketch of the bridge where the troops met up was provided in the troop log, but its location has not yet been identified. The Scouts from Doune were also camping near Arduaine.
6. The diagrams of the sailing ship and the bird were the county badges worn by the 70th Renfrewshire and Doune Scouts respectively.
7. Several parents visited the camp on the Sunday afternoon, so quite a few of the Scouts would have been taken out of camp by their parents for the afternoon.
8. This indicates that the English troop was also camping in the vicinity of Arduaine.
9. Billy Phillips was an enthusiast on natural history and was also good at drawing sketches. He drew many impressive sketches during his time as scribe of the Troop Log.
10. Feedback comments provided by A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.

Monday 7th August

We woke up at 8.30 am and made breakfast consisting of bacon and egg, cornflakes and chits¹. At 10.5² approx am, the flag was broken (*Figure 16*) and there was the Council of Chief Cannot-Sit-down in which the bravest braves (Al, Oz and Ron)³ were presented with the Paleface Whiteman Large Economy Size Medal-type Gong (P.W.L.E.S.M.G) (*Figure 17*) which they wore round their necks or wrists for 24 hours.⁴

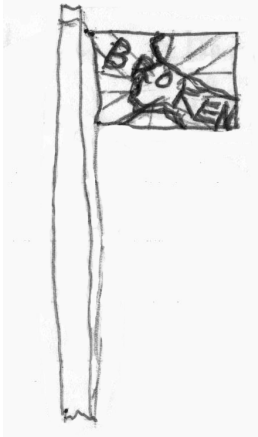


Figure 16 Flagbreak

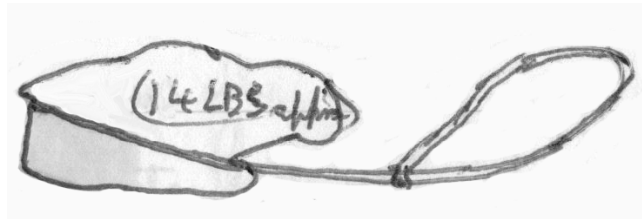


Figure 17 The 'Gong'

After Council was inspection⁵ and baseball in which Bobby⁶ the younger's team lost 0 v 1.

Scout's Own⁷ was after baseball and after that a swimming expedition (*Figure 18*)⁸.

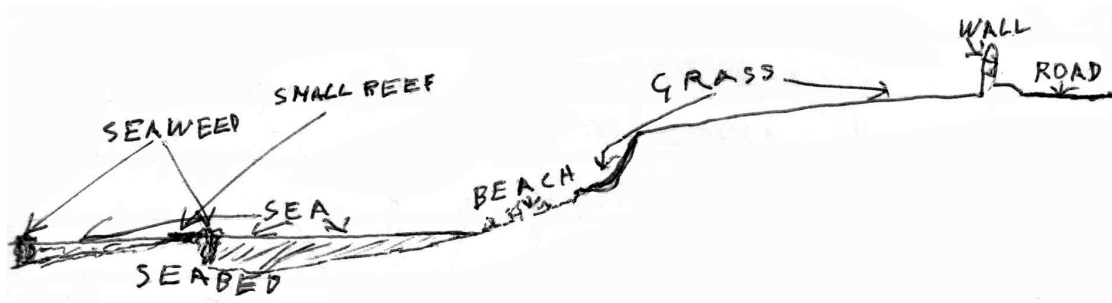


Figure 18 Diagram of the Bathing Place.

Then we had lunch, which Oz⁹ had prepared consisting of mince and onions, potatoes and stewed apples and custard. At the telegraph pole at the top of the hill, we did mapping and signalling and passed tests¹⁰. We ate tuna and lettuce sandwiches. Bobby⁶ passed 6 Common Trees and Firelighting and Rhiddian¹¹ passed 6 Common Trees.¹²

Later, we had campfire at our kitchen whose fire iron was awry (*Figure 19*).¹³



Figure 19 The awry fire iron.

We had cake, tablet and cocoa. We turned in at 10.48 pm.

Signed Rhiddian¹¹

Interest

British Birds No 4 & 5



Figure 20 The Avocet



Figure 21 The Crow

1. Pretty good all round – even the writing! But can no-one else in the patrol draw except Wiffil.¹⁵

J.H. Nisbet (8/8/61)¹⁶

Editorial comments for the 7th August 1961

1. A 'chit' referred to a sandwich or piece of bread with jam.
2. More likely to be 10.05 am rather than 10.50 am.
3. Troop Leader Alistair Cram and Patrol Leaders Albert Runcie and Ronald Lind.
4. This was in recognition of the fact that the three PLs had accompanied the Scouters on a midnight hike that was 10 miles long and did not finish until 5am in the morning. Unfortunately, it was not stated what the medal was made from.
5. See note 6 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding inspection.
6. Bobby McCallum of the Cuckoo Patrol.
7. See note 7 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding Scouts Own.
8. The swimming expedition was to Loch Melfort, possibly at Kames Bay.
9. Oz was the nickname of Albert Runcie, who was PL of the Cuckoo Patrol in camp.
10. Summer Camp was an ideal opportunity to pass outdoor orientated tests that counted towards the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class badges.
11. Rhiddian McKelvie.
12. These were tests that counted towards the 2nd Class Badge.
13. The grid iron was a metal stand used for resting dixies and pots on so that they could be heated over the fire. However, the grid iron here was not level.
14. Sketches drawn by Billy Phillips (Wiffil).
15. Billy Phillips.
16. Feedback provided by John Nisbet on reading the log.

Tuesday 8th August

We awoke at 7.30 a.m. and had a delicious breakfast of beans and eggs and porridge and then did dixies etc etc. I¹ then went over to the Scouters' kitchen and passed minor accidents² by I. McF³. That was after flagbreak and the game. We then had dinner which consisted of steak and onions, potatoes, rice and raisins and jelly.

After cleaning the dixies, Bobby⁴ (the first writer of this day) did his lashings⁵ for Nizy⁶, and Rhiddian¹ made twists for half his cooking⁷. Wiffil⁸ had toothache so he went to the dentist in Oban at about 3 o'clock.

At 6 or so, we had macaroni, spaghetti and chits for tea.

After tea, we jumped into pit and played cards⁹. At 9 o'clock, Wiffil⁸ arrived back from Oban, a poor drookit beastie, after walking several miles then getting a lift in the minibus.¹⁰

At 10, we had cocoa and doughnut and cake dans la pit¹¹. We then popped off to sleep.

Signed Rhiddian¹

Interest

Very Fast Bird (so fast I didn't get a good look at it) (*Figure 22*).³⁰



Figure 22

What about a sketch of a "poor drookit beastie". A good log.

J.H. Nisbet (9/8/61)

Excellent log! Keep it up (Niz)¹²

Editorial comments for the 8th August 1961

- 1. Rhiddian McKelvie*
- 2. A test that counted towards the 2nd Class badge.*
- 3. A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
- 4. Bobby McCallum.*
- 5. Lashings involved tying wooden spars together. For the 2nd Class badge, Scouts needed to know how to tie a square and diagonal lashing. These were used when the spars were not parallel to each other. The square lashing could be used when the spars were touching. The Diagonal lashing was used if the spars were separate from each other and needed to be pulled together.*
- 6. A.S.M. John Nisbet*
- 7. Twists involved twisting flour dough round a stick then cooking it over the fire.*
- 8. Billy Phillips (Wiffil) probably caught a service bus to get to Oban. The Camp accounts include 5/3 travelling expenses for Billy Phillips.*
- 9. The fact that the Scouts spend the evening played cards in their sleeping bags indicates that the weather was bad.*
- 10. Wiffle (Billy Phillips) managed to get to Oban without incident and visited the dentist but missed the last service bus back south. The distance from Oban back to camp was just under 20 miles and would have taken Billy at least 5 hours to complete in the rain. Ian Macfarlane drove the minibus north to pick him up, by which time Billy was 'drookit'.*
- 11. Supper was eaten when in sleeping bags.*
- 12. Feedback comments provided by A.S..M John Nisbet.*

Cookoo Patrol Log

Wednesday 9th August

This morning, the D.P.¹ were the Hippo² and Hooooji³ broke the flag (-pole) after everyone had had breakfast (rice crispies, boiled egg and beans).

In the morning, we had Scouts Own⁴ and then a short morning singsong at which all the new songs were sung and practiced⁵. At 11.0 am, we went to prepare dinner and soon had eaten it. Dinner was extra good today (corned beef, toties⁶, tomaties⁶, and custard and prunes).

A Treasure Hunt had been arranged for this afternoon.⁷

Clue 1 25 feet under a broken rectangle⁸ (Clue 2 found under flag)

Clue 2 19 miles from Oban (Clue 3 found by milestone)

Clue 3 Clue 2 + 1 (Clue 4 found by next milestone)

Clue 4 Kilmelford 212 look behind you (Clue 5 found in telephone box)

Clue 5⁹  Clue 6 found at road junction)

Clue 6¹⁰



(GRUB FOUND)

Grub was 4 bottles of lemonade, 12 yoyos and one large economy size cake. After eating **All** the grub, we set off home by the same route for tea (herring, beans, sausages).

After tea, we visited the seaweed factory¹¹

"Oh the lassie wi' the wee pug nose
Naebaidy knose, Naebaidy knose,
How my heart like a big seaweed engine goes
For the Lassie at the seaweed factory"

-and of course the palacial!!!! Shunks¹²



*Figure 23 The manufacturing process at the Seaweed factory.*¹³

Fish 1

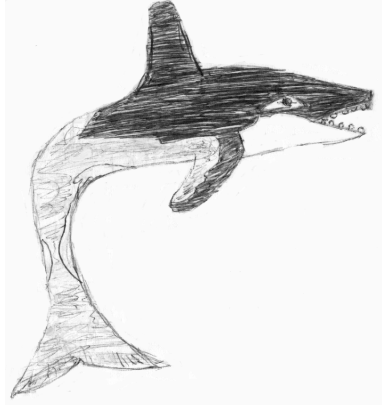


Figure 24 Killer Whale.
C.E.¹⁴ by Bobby and Rhiddian



Figure 25 British Birds no.6
Kingfisher.¹⁵

Excellent log – most entertaining J.H.N (10/8/61)¹⁶

Editorial comments for the 9th August 1961

1. The Duty Patrol (D.P.) for the day was responsible for flagbreak and flagdown, as well as any camp duties that need to be carried out. The most unpleasant of these was to empty the chemical toilet into the toilet pit. However, it is not known whether a chemical toilet or pit latrine was used at Arduaine.
2. The Hippopotamus Patrol led by T.L. Alastair Cram.
3. Hoooji was Michael Hodge's nickname. It is not known why he broke the flag rather than Alastair Cram. It is also not known whether he actually did break the flagpole when breaking the flag. It seems unlikely as there was no mention of this in the Fox Patrol Log or the Troop Log.
4. See note 7 for the 3rd August 1961 regarding Scouts Own
5. The new songs would have been campfire songs learnt at the previous joint campfire with the English and Perthshire troops.
6. Presumably potatoes and tomatoes
7. This was aimed at the Scouts and the Seconds (12 in total) and involved finding clues in the surrounding area, including the village of Arduaine
8. The rectangle referred to the Union Jack which was 'broken' each morning.
9. The grid reference for the road junction
10. It is believed that the treasure was hidden under a large object perched on small legs as indicated in the symbols shown. However, it is not known what this might have been. One possibility is that it refers to a cemetery.
11. The seaweed factory visited by the Scouts was close to the campsite (see Figure 10). The factory buildings still exist ((Grid ref 817113 as of 2023) and the representation shown in the sketch is pretty accurate. However, the factory is now used to process fish from the local fish farm in Loch Melfort.
12. It is not known what is meant by 'palacial' or 'shunks'. It's also not known whether this relates to a known poem.
13. The sketch suggests that the seaweed factory was reasonably substantial. The drawing is an accurate representation (see note 11).
14. It's not known what C.E. stands for. However, the sketch might have been drawn by Bobby and Rhiddian.
15. Drawn by Billy Phillips (Wiffil).
16. Feedback comments provided by A.S.M. John Nisbet.

Thursday 10th August –Friday 11th August

Editorial comments

Unfortunately, the patrol log was not completed for the last two days of camp. However, some details on those two days were provided in the Troop log. In short, the Scouts Own on Thursday covered the 9th Scout Law (A Scout is thrifty) and this was followed by a game of baseball. A start on dismantling the campsite was then made. In the afternoon, the Scouts slid down a transporter (aerial runway), which ended up in the sea. There was no seat provided and the Scouts placed a piece of wood over the rope and hung on for grim death. The campfire with the Doune Scouts had to be cancelled due to the bad weather, and so a joint sing song was held in a shed instead. Ironically, the last day in camp was probably the nicest day in terms of the weather. The last Scouts Own was held with a talk on the 10th Scout Law, then the Coronation Cup for Best Camper was awarded to Michael Nisbet. The Cuckoo Patrol won the Patrol Championship for the camp. The younger Scouts then departed in order to catch the 'Lochfyne' back to Gourock, leaving the Seconds, PLs and Scouters to take down the tents, shelters, and transporter. They also filled in the latrines. Before leaving the campsite for the final time, Bob Miller and Ian Macfarlane had one last swim in the loch, then everyone returned home in the minibus visiting the Doune Scouts one last time en route. Overall, the camp had been one of the wettest summer camps in the 70th history and that is possibly why it was never revisited.

Abbreviations

C.C. County Commissioner

T.L. = Troop Leader

P.L = Patrol Leader

A.S.M. = Assistant Scout Master

D.P. = Duty Patrol